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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 12, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 6 totaled an estimated 16.0 billion ton-miles, 0.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Labor Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 36 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 630 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 6 totaled 389,295 cars, 7.5 percent below 1979, and 12.8 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.7 percent in the East, 2.3 percent in the South, and 4.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 6,959 cars, or 7.0 percent; and grain showed an increase of 4,415 cars, or 17.6 percent. All of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 30 totaled 33,355 cars, down 11.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 61,196 trailers and/or containers, 7.0 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 35 weeks of the year was 1,119,700 cars, 10.7 percent lower than last year, and 2,040,201 trailers and/or containers, down 7.8 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/6/80:

	Loadings in Week ended September 6, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,510	I	4,415	17.6	D	3,695	11.1
Other farm products	2,756	-	0	-	D	895	24.5
Metallic ores	26,765	D	11,985	30.9	D	1,579	5.6
Coal	106,366	I	6,959	7.0	D	10,708	9.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,545	D	3,193	20.3	D	1,966	13.5
Nonmetallic minerals	14,955	D	784	5.0	D	452	2.9
Grain mill products	15,235	I	702	4.8	D	2,563	14.4
Food and kindred products	16,010	D	237	1.5	D	3,125	16.3
Primary forest products	15,951	D	1,526	8.7	D	3,679	18.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,182	D	2,369	24.8	D	2,959	29.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,810	D	767	4.1	D	2,851	13.8
Chemicals and allied products	23,145	D	2,478	9.7	D	5,166	18.2
Petroleum products	4,894	D	902	15.6	D	548	10.1
Stone, clay and glass products	15,082	D	1,174	7.2	D	1,120	6.9
Coke	3,612	D	2,867	44.3	D	492	12.0
Metals and products	11,896	D	5,294	30.8	D	2,602	17.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,088	D	4,859	28.7	D	789	6.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,133	D	1,962	17.7	D	2,134	18.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,573	D	891	8.5	D	2,073	17.8
All other carloads	34,643	D	2,260	6.1	D	7,608	18.0
LCL traffic	144	D	249	63.4	D	95	39.7
Total Cars Loaded	389,295	D	31,721	7.5	D	57,099	12.8
Corresponding week of 1979	421,016						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (36 weeks)	15,590,161	16,449,767	D	5.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
35 weeks cumulative	613.5	605.2	I	1.4
Week ended September 6	16.0	16.1	D	0.6
36 weeks cumulative	629.5	621.3	I	1.3

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